

MIDSTATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

# MARC

# SPARK GAP

*"Ham Radio News from Johnson County, Indiana"*

VOLUME XIII NO. 04

APRIL 1997

## JAVA, AN EYE OPENER

Many new life style patterns are taking shape as the World Wide Web continues to influence our daily business and home life. At the heart of this fast paced development is JAVA, a new programming language of the Internet. Computer meccas like Silicon Valley are funding new development in JAVA based applications. Closer to home, Hoosier based companies like DGF Technologies at Park 100 are working to develop what they envision as the next applications for JAVA. Club member Tom Chance, WB9KWF, is president of DGF Technologies. He says DGF Technologies and many software companies like Microsoft are having to react to this new language at incredible speed. As a result, JAVA will continue to exert more influence on our daily lives. Tom will explain JAVA and present the latest in Home Computing Appliances at the April 19th meeting. Come see why Oracle, Netscape, Sun, IBM, and others are endorsing its use, development and deployment. -- MARC



**CHANCE ENCOUNTER:** Tom Chance-WB9KWF will explain the fast changing world of JAVA programming language being used on the World Wide Web at the April 19th meeting.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

- The origin of the term "lid"
- How to prevent BNC wear
- Remember when - 1986
- WB9AYB, tangerine connection
- Tornado - chalk talk

### Dorothia Middleton, WA9JSB- SK

Following a year of illness on March 23, 1997, Dorothia Middleton - WB9JSB became a Silent Key. She is survived by her husband Del Middleton-N9ZON, and their two daughters Sharon Betts, WA9FIS and Peggy Bowman - WA9FIR. Del and Dorothia recently celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary. Del says Dorothia enjoyed going to hamfests and flea markets. She often talked on 2-meters. Dorothia was first licensed in 1953.

# SPARK GAP

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## *Membership Information*

The Mid-State Amateur Radio Club is a Franklin based organization open to all amateur radio operators in central Indiana.

The MARC meets the third Saturday of each month in the training room of the Johnson County Emergency Operations Center at 1100 Hospital Road in Franklin, In.

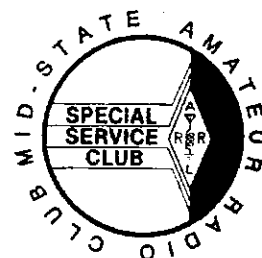
The MARC operates a 2-meter repeater at 146.835 MHz. Each club member has free access to the repeater and autopatch.

Annual dues are \$18.00. VE Testing follows each meeting from March through November.

Submit stories to the editor on disk or via e-mail by the 3rd of each month.

Send change-of-address information and membership applications to the club treasurer @ MARC President, P.O. Box 836, Franklin, In. 46131.

The Spark Gap is published monthly by the Mid-State ARC.



## CLUB OFFICERS

### *President :*

Dennis Parton, KB9HPQ  
H. 535-5867

### *Vice President:*

George Weimer, KG9HU  
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### *Secretary:*

Marilyn Parton, N9TUK  
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### *Treasurer/ARES:*

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H. 738-4575

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Richard Jasinski, KB9LJM  
H. 889-8962

### *Repeater Trustee:*

Bill Brinkmann, KA9ZMU  
H. 889-0549

### *Activities:*

Jack Parker, NT9J  
H. 881-0817

### *VE Team Coordinator*

Dave Wendt, KA9OOH  
H. 974-1488

## Club Meeting

**Saturday April 19th  
8 a.m.**

**Guest Speaker, Tom Chance**  
**Topic: JAVA & The Internet**

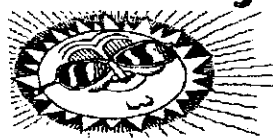
## VE Testing

**Check-ins begin at 9:15 AM**



**By Mike Rosemark, KA9VMR**  
NWS Meteorologist

## A Ray of Sunshine



Lots of doom and gloom has appeared in the media lately about cutbacks in the National Weather

Service (NWS). Fortunately, mixed in with the forecast of fewer personnel and service reductions are a few bright spots. One of these "rays of sunshine" involves new weather forecasting equipment.

Twenty-one computer terminals linking a variety of new technologies for weather forecasting will be installed this year at NWS offices around the country. Called the Advanced Weather Interactive Processing System, or AWIPS, the terminals will combine data from Doppler radars, automated ground and upper air observing systems, and satellites at a single workstation.

This system is expected to significantly improve the ability of the meteorologist to analyze the atmosphere and predict changes. It will replace equipment developed in the late 60's and early 70's. Installation of the 21 units was approved last month by the Department of Commerce.

The systems will be in place by late summer or early fall. A decision on installing AWIPS at all NWS offices across the nation is



expected by early next year following evaluation of the 21 initial systems. If all goes well, plans call for the installation of 148 AWIPS workstations at a total cost of \$550 million. - KA9VMR



Over thirty amateur radio operators and Johnson county firefighters attended the Skywarn spotters class last month. The annual event was organized by ARES Director, Vernon Gill, N9QBO. Vernon said last years storms that ripped across northern Johnson and southern Marion county prompted many hams and firefighters to seek the extra spotter training. The 90-minute class was taught by veteran Meteorologist Jerry Lindsey. Jerry is a Franklin native and has experienced the killer tornadoes that raced across Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio the past quarter century. Lindsey showed slides of severe storm cloud formations and explained how super-cel storms develop creating high winds and damaging hail. The course is recommended for anyone that intends to serve as a severe weather spotter in Indiana. -MARC

## Food for thought !

If you throw a cat out a car window does it become kitty litter?

If corn oil comes from corn, where does baby oil come from?

When a cow laughs does milk come up its nose?

Why do they put Braille on the number pads of drive-through bank machines?

How did a fool and his money GET together?

If nothing sticks to Teflon, how do they stick Teflon on the pan?

# Remember When?

*From Midstate ARC Newsletter May 1986*

Due to budgetary restrictions we have had to reduce the size of our newsletter. The club Board of Directors decided in March to scale down the publication in order to budget our club funds more wisely. As our roster grows larger we will expand the size of the newsletter.

Congratulations to Walt Howard, KA9OQK, for upgrading to General class operator.

Welcome to newcomer Paul Easley, KA9KAI.

Sunday April 13th we found out just how foxy Sandy Sanders, WA9RDF, can be. Our first fox hunt of the year was held under the direction of Paul Thomas, KA9DTH. The best time of 44 minutes was logged by Tom Curran, N9DZJ. Jack Parker, N9EXK and Larry Kemp, N9DLN tied for second finishing in just under 90 minutes.

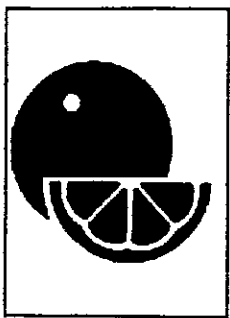
Johnson County Civil Defense Director Sam Williams has asked the Midstate ARC to man the 2-meter equipment in the planned jail communications center. Williams met with our board of directors in April to ask for our support and input. All this planning hinges on the passing of a bond issue to fund the jail complex expansion.

## Happy Birthday

Tom Carroll	N9AZD	4/6
Rick Reneau	KB9NDF	4/8
Jay Wright	N9IMT	4/11
Ron Gaertner	WB9NVM	4/12
David Heckman	N9IKI	4/14
Dustin Cannon	KB9LOS	4/16
Karen Vergara	N9KMH	4/20
Bernice Dezarn	KB9NSY	4/22
Stephen Imlay	N9XNR	4/27

## Tangerine connection

*Bob Doles, WB9AYB recently returned from a winter hiatus in Florida. Bob shares one of his retirement experiences.*



As I sat operating 40 meters CW in Big Tree RV Park in Arcadia, Florida, a response to my CQ call nearly bent the S meter on my mobile HF rig. The station calling was WZ4Q, Bill Huff. Bill indicated he was a mere quarter mile away from my location. Figuring 40 meters and 100 watts was a little too much for a local QSO, I asked Bill to QSY to the local 147.075 repeater.

An exchange of personal information revealed that Bill was a fellow Hoosier, having been raised in Brazil, Indiana. He was a graduate of the Rose Poly Institute of Technology, now Rose Hullman near Terre Haute. An invitation to have an "eyeball" was extended by Bill and included the statement, "I'll give you some

tangerines". He had no idea what a tangerine aficionado he was inviting to his QTH!

The invitation was eagerly accepted as were the tangerines. This was the first of many visits to raid the backyard orchard. Needless to say, the tangerines were far superior to any that I had ever tasted. On the second visit, Bill handed me the clippers and pointed toward an orange tree. Nothing like cutting fresh fruit from your own backyard tree. I cut so many oranges that it took two trips on my bicycle to haul home the booty of the day.

### Small world

During my second visit to Bill's house his wife Florence, asked if I knew a ham named Jim Smith. The only Jim Smith I know is WV9W in Columbus. Jim is a Mid-State ARC member and a member of the VE test team. What a small world. Florence is Jim's aunt and the great-aunt to Brian Smith WW9A, a club member and operator of the WW9A packet bulletin board.

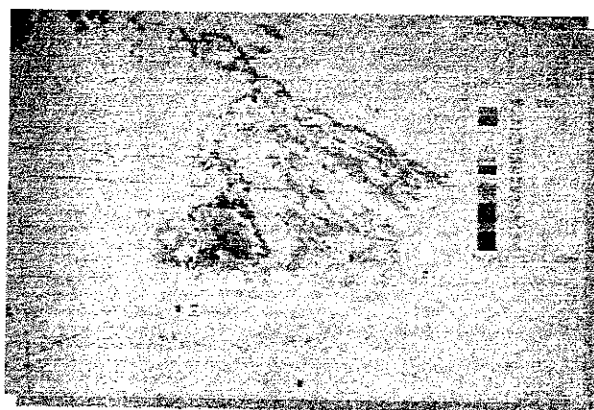
So, thanks to ham radio I generated another friendship and made the tangerine connection. PS. How many readers are familiar with the virtues of HoneyBelle tangelos? If so, tell me. I'm Bob, WB9AYB.

## Tornado, chalk talk

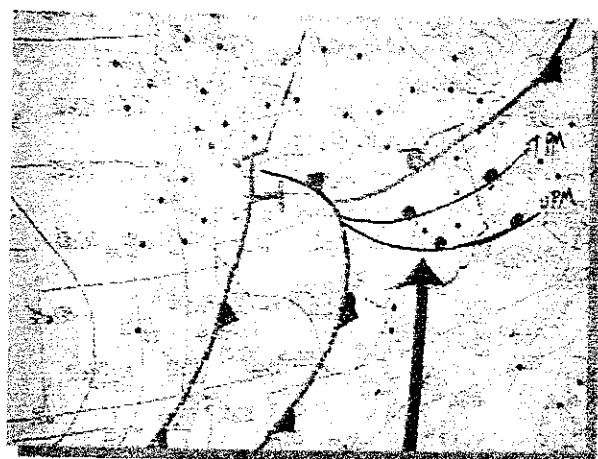
Meteorologist Mike Rosemark, KA9VMR explains the tornado that raced across Johnson county April 19, 1996 during the March MARC meeting



*"People said the tornado looked this big"*



*"Charlie, N9MEW (L) and Dave, KB9LOT soaked up the severe weather information from Mike, KA9VMR"*



*"Weather symbols show developing storm"*



# Spring Fashions

**Yaesu's new FT-920** HF/6-meter transceiver will be available in early May, the company announced this week. The radio already is being advertised for sale in some overseas ham radio journals. Yaesu says the FT-920 will offer 100 W output on all bands; digital signal processing (DSP) in all modes (with auto notch and noise reduction); built-in antenna tuner, memory keyer and RS-232C level converter; and MOSFET finals. It's expected to retail for under \$2000. ICOM has announced the IC-706MkII, with several improvements and additions to the popular tiny HF/VHF transceiver at the same price as the original IC-706. The MkII will offer slots for two optional filters, a "sub" dial (to tune the second VFO or for RIT), 20 W output on 2 meters, a separate band-change key, crossband split, band-stacking register, and better sensitivity outside the ham bands.

**Ten-Tec has announced** the OMNI-VI Plus, an upgraded version of its popular HF transceiver. The OMNI-VI Plus includes DSP noise reduction, low pass, auto notch and adjustable CW offset (with tracking sidetone) plus another filter position. A retrofit program is available for current OMNI-VI owners. The OMNI-VI Plus is priced at \$2585.

**Alinco cuts prices again:** For the second time in less than a year, Alinco has announced price reductions to dealers. The company cited the favorable dollar-yen exchange rate as one reason behind the price cuts. Alinco notes that it does not set prices at the dealer level, and that street prices can vary from one retailer to another. *-ARRL Bulletin*

## HT BNC helper

### Prevention

by Tom, N2TTQ

If you use your HT for mobile, portable, or packet, this is for you. Repeated connecting and disconnecting of antennas often breaks the shield-to-ground connection of the BNC-type antenna connector. A BNC male-to-female extender is easy prevention. Unfortunately, hamfest connector dealers find it strange that anyone would want a device that doesn't adapt anything to anything else. But a few of the wiser dealers carry them. Some even label them "connector savers." Amphenol, among others, makes them.

from the January '96 Delaware-Lehigh ARC "W3OK Corral"-  
Clarence Snyder, W3PYF, Editor



## Rocket launch set

The Aerospace States Association Rockets for Schools program has announced plans to launch three rockets during May that will carry Amateur TV (ATV) payloads. All launches will use 11-foot-long Super-Loki sounding rockets identical to the rocket used for the successful Wisconsin Rockets for Schools program launch in May 1996 described in "New Heights for ATV" (QST, Feb 1997). On May 10, a Super-Loki rocket carrying an ATV payload on 439.25 MHz with GPS data on the audio is scheduled to be launched from Cape Henlopen State Park in Delaware. If successful, the event

will mark Delaware's first suborbital rocket launch. The Aerospace Education Department and the Delaware AeroSpace Education Foundation are sponsoring the project in conjunction with the Aerospace States Association and several other supporting agencies.

**Teams of students** in grades 7 through 12 are being recruited to assist in designing and building various payload components. For the latest information on the Delaware launch, see <http://www.dpi.state.de.us/dpi/launch/> on the Web or contact Sam Guccione, K3BY, e-mail [sguccion@outland.dtcc.edu](mailto:sguccion@outland.dtcc.edu). On May 17, two Super-Loki rockets carrying ATV payloads will be launched at separate times from Sheboygan, Wisconsin, on the shore of Lake Michigan (the site of the May 4, 1996, launch). Current plans call for the first to transmit ATV on 434.25 MHz with Morse code telemetry on the audio, and for the second to transmit ATV on 439.25 MHz with GPS data on the audio. For the latest information on the Wisconsin launches, see <http://phy.mtu.edu/rocket/> on the Web or contact Greg Heinen, KB9OBV, at [heineng@orbitec.com](mailto:heineng@orbitec.com), or Bryan Suits, WB8WKN, at [suits@mtu.edu](mailto:suits@mtu.edu). The Super-Loki rocket, which uses solid propellant, can carry the payload to altitudes of more than 30 miles. *--Bryan Suits, WB8WKN --ARRL Bulletin*

### PHASE 3D LAUNCH PUT OFF UNTIL SEPTEMBER

Modifications to the Ariane 5 rocket's electrical systems and software will mean another costly delay for the Phase 3D Amateur Radio satellite. The European Space Agency said that the Ariane 502 which will carry Phase 3D aloft from French Guyana, has been rescheduled for a mid-September launch.

# Walk for Riley

Mid-State ARC communicators are on the go again Sunday April 27th. For the second year in a row we will assist the Zeta Sigma Chapter of the Psi Iota Xi Sorority with their sixth annual Walk for Riley. The walkers will step off at 1:30 PM



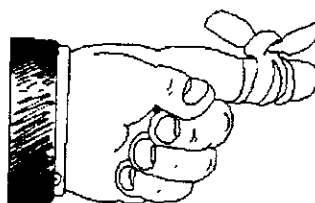
from the Providence Park Pool entrance in Franklin. Each of the participants is expected to raise pledges for their three mile walk. All pledges go to purchase recreational equipment for the bedfast patients in the Teen and School Age units at Riley Children's Hospital. At least 15

Amateur Radio operators will be needed to provide communications around the course. Bob LeGrange, N9SIU and Jack Parker, NT9J are coordinating the event. A sign-up sheet will be passed around during the April meeting of MARC. Everyone is asked to report to the park staging area by 12:30 PM. The event should be wrapped up by three o'clock. This is the first scheduled public service event for 1997. Amateur Radio communicators will be needed for the Greenwood Kiwanis 10K Run in July, the Flat Rock 7K Run in August and the Masonic Home Pilgrimage in October. Plans are developing for a club project on Flag Day, June 14th at the American Legion Headquarters in Indianapolis. More details forthcoming at the April meeting. -MARC

## FCC eyes RACES rules

The ARRL is seeking a change in FCC rules to relax regulations regarding the Amateur Radio Service and (RACES). The League wants the FCC to allow hams actively supporting emergency or disaster communication or involved in drills and tests to communicate "between and among" RACES stations and those stations registered with civil defense organizations operating under RACES.

The League also wants the FCC to relax time limitations on RACES emergency drills and tests. This would permit stations operating under RACES (organized under FEMA) to communicate, as necessary during emergencies, tests and drills, with stations operating under the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, or ARES. Relaxing the rules "would permit intercommunication with other amateurs active in emergency communications." -*ARRL Bulletin*



## RACES Meeting

RACES members will have a short meeting in the radio room following the MARC meeting. According to RACES Director, Rich Jasinski - KB9LJM, spring projects and weather net procedures will be discussed.

## VE Testing Results

### March test session results--

● Mike Wade	Indianapolis	General
● Larry Turner	Columbus	Tech
● Sharon Anderson	Waldron	Tech
● Tom Chance	Indianapolis	Advanced



New  
Members

**WELCOME:** Richard Turner - KB9NZY

## 40 Cent Callbook

That was the price of a government publication listing the 22,739 licensed amateur in the US in 1932. Writing in the October JCARA Feedline, (Ed Ingraham-WX4S Editor),

O. D. Keaton-WA4GLS reports some of the highlights in QST for January of that year. Mr. Dow's electron-coupled oscillator was introduced in that issue. As you may recall, it was known as the "ECO" for many years-the first popular vacuum tube VFO to offer frequency stability which effectively freed hams from being "rock bound" with plug-in crystals. It was usually home constructed, often as a separate unit, with a cable that allowed its output to be plugged directly into the crystal socket of an existing transmitter.

QST also published the newly revised amateur regulations in this issue-a total of just three columns of text. Compare that with Part 97 of the Rules today! - *ARNs*

# Repeaters :

## How they came about

—author unknown

**O**nce upon a time, there lived a scattered group of persons who wanted desperately to talk with other persons who lived in the far away berry patches. After much deliberation, they selected one of their clansman who just happened to live atop a big hill and who had a big mouth-and excellent hearing. The one in the valley yelled remarks to the top of the hill, where the top man then repeated what he heard so that all listeners, everywhere would know what was being said from here and there.

Now it happened some individuals could not hear the voice from atop the hill in good fashion. Also, some of the traveling salesmen riding their donkeys in some distant valley remained unanswered because their voices fell upon empty air.

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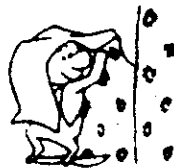
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## **CYBER SPACE CONNECTION**

**MARC Internet Home Page**

**<http://www.surf-ici.com/marc>**

**Crossroads Broadcast BBS**

**Charlie Sears, N9MEW - 535-1643**

**Windtrax Home Page**

**<http://www.windtrax.org>**

### ***Repeater-cont'd***

There were some souls in some geographical spots that had been taught to whistle just right before they yelled to the re-sayer. Unless he recognized a certain whistle, he refused to do any hollering for them. All in all, it was a happy experience for most folks. In fact it was suggested that the idea be put upon a stone tablet and persevered for posterity. And so, it was done.

--from the *SERA Repeater Journal*. Dec '96, Editor,  
Wayne Williams Sr.-K4MOB., via the Groundwave,  
Dec, '96 Editor Bell Svec-WA4BKW. --ARNS